

First Things First

Innovations, Inventions, and Incidents in Indiana History

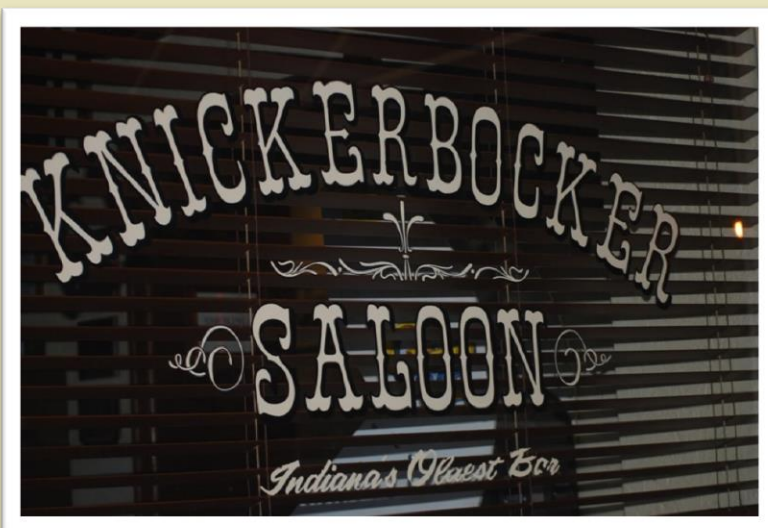


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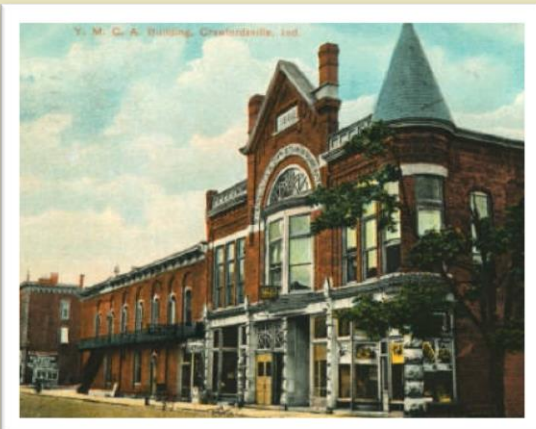
Gary:
Richard Hatcher became the first elected Black mayor of a major U.S. city in 1968.



La Porte:
Belle Sorenson Guinness is believed to be America's first female serial killer, murdering an estimated 40 people over several decades beginning around 1900. Guinness was never apprehended.



Lafayette:
Indiana's oldest bar was established in 1835 as "Cherry Wood Bar." Now called "Knickerbocker Saloon," famous guests have included President Grant, Mark Twain, Al Capone, and Neil Armstrong.



Crawfordsville:
The first organized game of basketball was played between teams from Crawfordsville and Lafayette in the YMCA gym inside the Terminal Building (demolished) here on March 16, 1894. Crawfordsville High School also won the first boys state basketball championship in 1911.



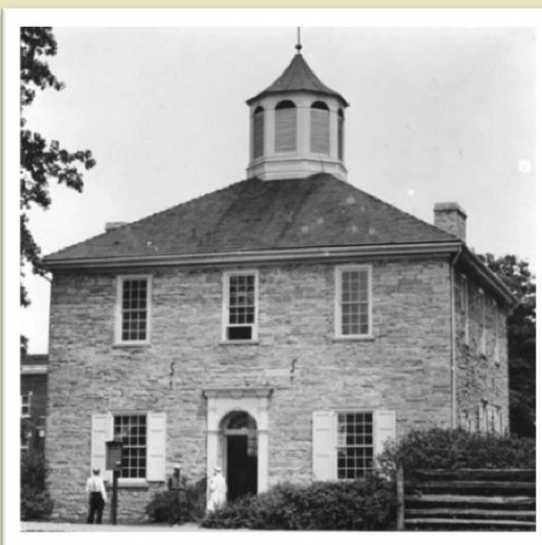
Speedway:
The first long-distance auto race in the U.S. was at the Indianapolis Motor. Speedway in May 1911.

Mooreville:
Native John Dillinger was named the first "Public Enemy Number One" by the new FBI in June 1934 following a two-year string of bank robberies around the Midwest.

Terre Haute:
In 1920 native Eugene V. Debs, a candidate of the Socialist Party, was the first to run for President of the United States from prison.



Vincennes:
The first permanent European settlement in Indiana was built here by the French in 1732. Vincennes is also the site of the first Catholic church in Indiana.



Bedford:
Bedford is the leading producer of Indiana limestone, which has been used in the construction of the Empire State Building, the Pentagon, and the National Cathedral.

South Bend:
The University of Notre Dame boasts the oldest college marching band in continuous existence (since 1846).



Fort Wayne:
The first professional baseball game was played between the Ft. Wayne Kekiongas and the Cleveland Forest Citys in May of 1871.

Wabash:
Wabash became the first city in the world to use electric street lights in 1880.



Kokomo:
Elwood Haynes test-drove the first internal combustion engine here, and the city also produced the first pneumatic rubber tires.

Muncie:
In 1920 the Congerville/Muncie Flyers were one of the original 14 teams in what would later become the National Football League.

New Castle:
The New Castle Fieldhouse is the largest high school basketball gym in the world, with a capacity of 9,325.

Indianapolis:
The first Black female millionaire in the country was Madam C.J. Walker, who built a beauty products laboratory and factory here in 1910.



Columbus:
In 2013, Columbus and Bartholomew County ranked first in Indiana for the number of methamphetamine lab seizures, with the state of Indiana ranking first in the nation.

Seymour:
The first train robbery in the U.S. was perpetrated by the Reno Gang here in 1866, later featured in a motion picture starring Elvis Presley.

Corydon:
Corydon was the first state capital until 1825.